

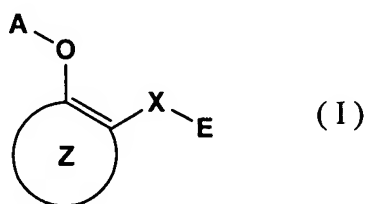
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

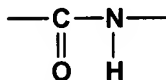
Listing of Claims:

1-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A ~~medicament~~ method for preventive and/or therapeutic treatment of dermal pigmentation and/or development of skin cancer in a mammal including a human, which comprises the step of administering a preventively and/or therapeutically effective amount of ~~as an active ingredient~~ a substance selected from the group consisting of a compound represented by the following general formula (I) and a pharmacologically acceptable salt thereof, and a hydrate thereof and a solvate thereof:



wherein X represents a group represented by the following formula:

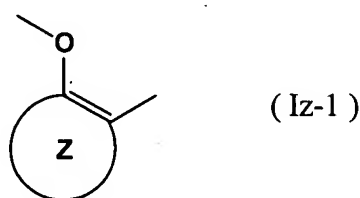


wherein a bond at the left end binds to ring Z and a bond at the right end binds to E,

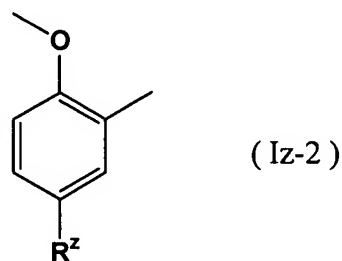
A represents hydrogen atom,

E represents a 2,5-di-substituted phenyl group wherein at least one of said substituents is trifluoromethyl group, a 3,5-di-substituted phenyl group wherein at least one of said substituents is trifluoromethyl group, or a 4,5-di-substituted thiazol-2-yl group, ring Z represents a C₆ to C₁₀ arene which may have one or more substituents in addition to the group represented by formula –O-A wherein A has the same meaning as that defined above and the group represented by formula –X-E wherein each of X and E has the same meaning as that defined above, or a 5- to 13-membered heteroarene which may have one or more substituents in addition to the group represented by formula –O-A wherein A has the same meaning as that defined above and the group represented by formula –X-E wherein each of X and E has the same meaning as that defined above, to a mammal including a human.

18. (Currently Amended): The ~~medicament~~ method according to claim 17, wherein E is a group selected from the group consisting of the following substituent group δ -3e, substituent group δ -5e, and substituent group δ -8e, the following partial formula (Iz-1) in the general formula (I) containing ring Z



is the following formula (Iz-2):



wherein R^z represents a group selected from the following substituent group γ -2z[[.]], wherein

{Substituent Group δ -3e} represents a 2-chloro-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, a 2,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, a 2-fluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, a 2-nitro-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, a 2-methyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, a 2-methoxy-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, a 2-methylsulfanyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, a 2-(1-pyrrolidinyl)-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, a 2-morpholino-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, a 2-bromo-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, a 2-(2-naphthyloxy)-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, a 2-(2,4-dichlorophenoxy)-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, a 2-[4-(trifluoromethyl)piperidin-1-yl]-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, a 2-(2,2,2-trifluoroethoxy)-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, a 2-(2-methoxyphenoxy)-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, a 2-(4-chloro-3,5-dimethylphenoxy)-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, a 2-piperidino-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, a 2-(4-methylphenoxy)-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, a 2-(4-chlorophenoxy)-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, a 2-(4-cyanophenoxy)-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, a 2-(4-methoxyphenoxy)-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group;

{Substituent Group δ -5e} represents a 3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, a 3-fluoro-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, a 3-bromo-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, a 3-methoxy-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, a 3-methoxycarbonyl-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, a 3-carboxy-5-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group;

{Substituent Group δ -8e} represents a 5-bromo-4-[(1,1-dimethyl)ethyl]thiazol-2-yl group, a 5-bromo-4-(trifluoromethyl)thiazol-2-yl group, a 5-cyano-4-[(1,1-dimethyl)ethyl]thiazol-2-yl group, a 4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl group, a 5-methyl-4-phenylthiazol-2-yl group, a 5-(4-fluorophenyl)-4-methylthiazol-2-yl group, a 4-methyl-5-[3-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]thiazol-2-yl group, a 4-[(1,1-dimethyl)ethyl]-5-ethylthiazol-2-yl group, a 4-ethyl-5-phenylthiazol-2-yl group,

a 4-isopropyl-5-phenylthiazol-2-yl group, a 4-butyl-5-phenylthiazol-2-yl group, a 4-[(1,1-dimethyl)ethyl]-5-[(2,2-dimethyl)propionyl]thiazol-2-yl group, a 4-[(1,1-dimethyl)ethyl]-5-(ethoxycarbonyl)thiazol-2-yl group, a 4-[(1,1-dimethyl)ethyl]-5-piperidinethiazol-2-yl group, a 4-[(1,1-dimethyl)ethyl]-5-morpholinethiazol-2-yl group, a 4-[(1,1-dimethyl)ethyl]-5-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)thiazol-2-yl group, a 4-[(1,1-dimethyl)ethyl]-5-(4-phenylpiperazin-1-yl)thiazol-2-yl group, a 5-carboxymethyl-4-phenylthiazol-2-yl group, a 4,5-diphenylthiazol-2-yl group, 4-benzyl-5-phenylthiazol-2-yl group, a 5-phenyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)thiazol-2-yl group, a 5-acetyl-4-phenylthiazol-2-yl group, a 5-benzoyl-4-phenylthiazol-2-yl group, a 5-ethoxycarbonyl-4-phenylthiazol-2-yl group, a 5-ethoxycarbonyl-4-(pentafluorophenyl)thiazol-2-yl group, a 5-methylcarbamoyl-4-phenylthiazol-2-yl group, a 5-ethylcarbamoyl-4-phenylthiazol-2-yl group, a 5-isopropylcarbamoyl-4-phenylthiazol-2-yl group, a 5-(2-phenylethyl)carbamoyl-4-phenylthiazol-2-yl group, a 5-ethoxycarbonyl-4-(trifluoromethyl)thiazol-2-yl group, a 5-carboxy-4-[(1,1-dimethyl)ethyl]thiazol-2-yl group, a 5-(ethoxycarbonyl)methyl-4-phenylthiazol-2-yl group, a 5-carboxy-4-phenylthiazol-2-yl group, a 5-propylcarbamoyl-4-phenylthiazol-2-yl group; {Substituent Group γ -2z} represents a halogen atom, a nitro group, a cyano group, a methoxy group, a methyl group, an isopropyl group, a tert-butyl group, a 1,1,3,3-tetramethylbutyl group, a 2-phenylethen-1-yl group, a 2,2-dicyanoethen-1-yl group, a 2-cyano-2-(methoxycarbonyl)ethen-1-yl group, a 2-carboxy-2-cyanoethen-1-yl group, an ethynyl group, a phenylethynyl group, (trimethylsilyl)ethynyl group, a trifluoromethyl group, a pentafluoroethyl group, a phenyl group, a 4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, a 4-fluorophenyl group, a 2,4-difluorophenyl group, a 2-phenethyl group, a 1-hydroxyethyl group, a 1-(methoxyimino)ethyl group, a 1-[(benzyloxy)imino]ethyl group, a 2-thienyl group, a 3-thienyl group, a 1-pyrrolyl group, a 2-methylthiazol-4-yl group, an imidazo[1,2-a]pyridin-2-yl group, a 2-pyridyl group, an acetyl

group, an isobutyryl group, a piperidinocarbonyl group, a 4-benzylpiperidinocarbonyl group, a (pyrrol-1-yl)sulfonyl group, a carboxy group, methoxycarbonyl group, an N-[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]carbamoyl group, an N,N-dimethylcarbamoyl group, a sulfamoyl group, an N-[3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl]sulfamoyl group, an N,N-dimethylsulfamoyl group, amino group, an N,N-dimethylamino group, an acetylamino group, a benzoylamino group, a methanesulfonylamino group, a benzenesulfonylamino group, a 3-phenylureido group, a (3-phenyl)thioureido group, a (4-nitrophenyl)diazenyl group, a {[4-(pyridin-2-yl)sulfamoyl]phenyl} diazenyl group.

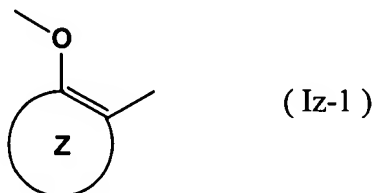
19. (Currently Amended) The ~~medicament~~ method according to claim 18, wherein E is a group selected from the group consisting of the aforementioned substituent group δ -3e, substituent group δ -5e, and substituent group δ -8e, and R^z is a halogen atom.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~medicament~~ method according to claim 19, wherein E is 2,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group or 3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, and R^z is a halogen atom.

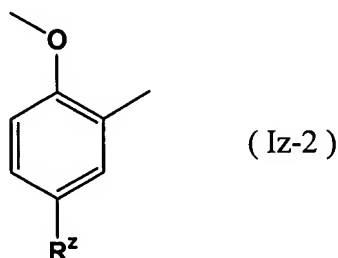
21. (Currently Amended) The ~~medicament~~ method according to claim 20, wherein E is 3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group, and R^z is a halogen atom.

22. (Currently Amended): The ~~medicament~~ method according to claim 17, wherein E is 2,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group or 3,5-bis(trifluoromethyl)phenyl group.

23. (Currently Amended) The ~~medicament~~ method according to claim 17, wherein the following partial formula (Iz-1) in the general formula (I) containing ring Z



is the following formula (Iz-2):



wherein R^Z represents a halogen atom.

24. (Currently Amended) The ~~medicament~~ method according to claim 17, for preventive and/or therapeutic treatment of dermal pigmentation.

25. (Currently Amended) The ~~medicament~~ method according to claim 21, for preventive and/or therapeutic treatment of dermal pigmentation.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~The medicament according to claim 17, having inhibitory activity against~~ A method of inhibiting transformation and/or proliferation of melanocytes caused by ultraviolet irradiation, which comprises the step of allowing a substance according to claim 17 to act on melanocytes.

27. (Currently Amended) The ~~medicament~~ method according to claim 26, wherein the substance is the same as that defined in claim 21, having inhibitory activity against transformation and/or proliferation of melanocytes caused by ultraviolet irradiation.

28. (Currently Amended) A ~~cosmetic composition which comprises a substance~~ according to ~~claim 17 as an active ingredient having a~~ method of skin whitening effect, which comprises the step of administering an effective amount of a substance according to claim 17 to a human.

29. (Currently Amended) A ~~cosmetic composition which comprises a substance~~ The method according to claim 28, wherein the substance is the same as that defined in claim 21 as an active ingredient having a skin whitening effect.

30. (New) The method according to claim 17, wherein the mammal is a human.